

Junior Ranger Guide



Edgar Allan Poe
National Historic Site

Junior Ranger Guide

Edgar Allan Poe had a great imagination. People still enjoy his lovely poetry and scary stories.

Today his home is a national historic site. It belongs to all of us. By becoming a Junior Ranger you can learn more about Poe's life and times. You can also help the National Park Service take care of his home. The house is very old and fragile. Please treat it gently during your visit.



To become a Junior Ranger:

Ages 8 to 12 years old.

See the 8-minute video program.

Explore his home with your parents or a park ranger.

Complete the activities in this guide.

Show this guide to a park ranger to receive your award.

Parents and guardians:

You are encouraged to join your child in exploring Edgar Allan Poe's life and times.

This activity takes about 45 minutes.

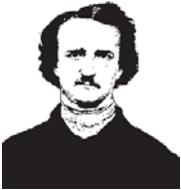
Explore the Exhibits!



Complete at least 3 of the activities in the exhibit area.

Edgar Allan Poe lived here with his wife, mother-in-law, and the family cat. Each had a nickname. Look in the exhibit for Maria Clemm's picture and find her nickname. **Write it below.**

Edgar



Eddie

Virginia



Sissy

Maria



Catterina



Kate

Do you have a special nickname? What is it?

Find a picture of Eddie.

Circle the word(s) that best describe Eddie's expression.

happy

sad

excited

playful

serious

scared

angry

lonely

proud

Explore the Exhibits!

Eddie invented the detective story while living in Philadelphia. He called these stories "tales of ratiocination."

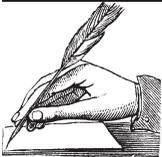
What is the title of his first "tale of ratiocination?"



Look for the timeline of Eddie's life. He wrote many of his best stories in Philadelphia.

What years did he live in Philadelphia?

Explore the Home!



Complete at least 2 of the activities in the house.

First Floor *the parlor*

The first room you enter was probably the parlor. A friend visited Eddie here. He recalled being served a delicious dish of "peaches in the melting mood." Sissy sliced some peaches and covered them in sugar and cream.

If you were entertaining your friends here, what kind of dessert would you serve?



Explore the Home!

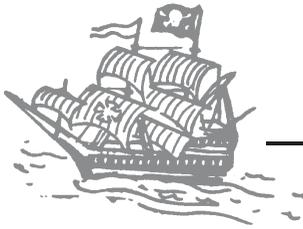
Second Floor *the bedroom*

This was the nicest bedroom. Perhaps Eddie wrote his adventure tale "The Gold Bug" here. In the story, William Legrand finds a gold colored bug *and* a hidden message. The message was written in a secret code. Legrand cracked the code and made an exciting discovery.

Find out what he discovered by using the key to solve the secret coded message below.



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
t z k y r v o u w c m f d a x j s b e g l q n i h p



AESNQHES

Basement *the cellar*

When Eddie and Sissy lived here, the cellar may have been used to store milk and eggs. The coolness of the room helped keep food from spoiling.

While living in this house, Eddie wrote a scary story called "The Black Cat." The scariest part of the story takes place in a cellar like this one.

How would you describe this room?

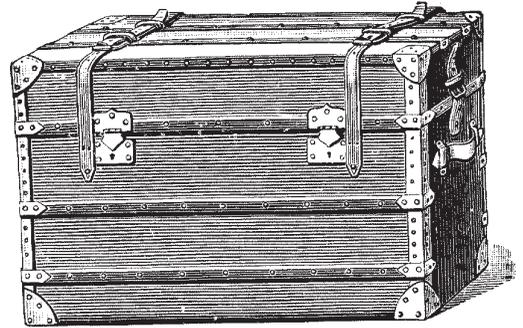


Travel Trunk!



Complete at least 4 of the activities in the trunk.

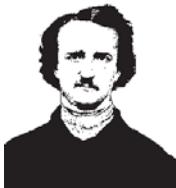
In hopes of making a better living, Eddie moved the family to New York City. In the Spring of 1844, he and Sissy packed their trunks. There was not enough money to pay for everyone's passage. Muddy and Kate stayed in Philadelphia until Eddie could send for them.



Inside the trunk are things that Eddie and Sissy might have packed for their trip.

Imagine moving to a new place, and you must choose only a few things to take with you. **What would you be sure to pack in your trunk?**

Look in the trunk for the sorts of things Eddie and Sissy would have packed. **Describe or draw at least 2 things that you think would have belonged to Eddie and 2 things that would have belonged to Sissy.**



Eddie



Siss

Travel Trunk!

Eddie dreamed of owning his own literary magazine. He kept a list of friends he thought might want to buy his magazine. He drew a picture with the title of his magazine ***The Stylus*** in the front of the notebook.



Muddy used the notebook to write some of her favorite riddles. Look for the brown notebook. Look on the last 2 pages for her riddles.

Find the answer to this one--"What is that you see but cannot hope to catch?"

Whenever Eddie traveled he took along his favorite books and important papers. He especially loved poetry. Find the books of poetry. **Write the name of one of the authors below.**



Gentlemen never left their homes without being properly dressed. A well dressed gentleman always wore a cravat or tie. Find the cravat. Look at a picture or the bust of Eddie.

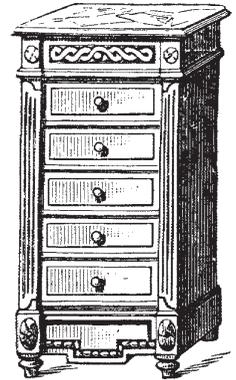
Try tying the cravat like Eddie's.



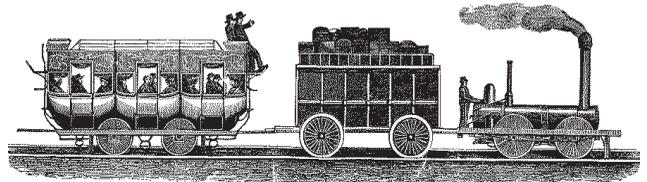
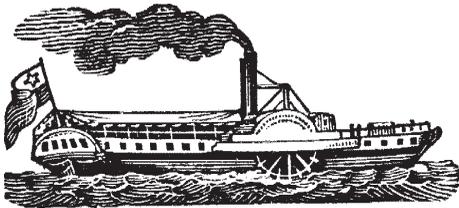
Travel Trunk!

Eddie's foster mother kept small bags of perfumed powder in her dresser drawers. She filled the bags with the dried roots of the orris plant. Whenever a drawer was opened a sweet scent would drift out. Eddie said the smell of orris root brought him back to the time he was a little boy and thoughts of his foster mother.

Find the small bag. **What does the scent remind you of?**



Do you have a favorite scent that brings to mind a happy or fun time?



Find Sissy's scrapbook. Turn to the last complete page of the scrapbook. Find the schedule for the **Camden and Amboy Rail Road Line**. Check the chart for the fare rates to New York City.

Before Eddie and Sissy purchased their tickets they had \$17. They bought two tickets to New York City. **How much money did they have left?**
